

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 130969

67

ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 /012 R

66640

DRAFTED BY:D/PW/FASIEVERTS

APPROVED BY:D/PW/FASIEVERTS

----- 087396

O 181949Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 130969

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 130969 ACTION MANILA 10 JUN 75 QUOTE:

UNCLAS STATE 130969

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 130969 ACTION BANGKOK PARIS GENEVA WARSAW
BUDAPEST CANBERRA INFO MOSCOW KUALA LUMPUR JAKARTA TEHRAN OTTAWA
CINCPAC AND SAMAESAN THAILAND 05 JUN 75

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 130969/1

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UPI REPORT FROM SAIGON JUNE 4 BY
ALAN DAWSON. BEGIN TEXT:

SAIGON (UPI) -- EIGHT AMERICANS AND FOUR OTHER FOREIGN-
ERS CAPTURED DURING THE FIRST ATTACK OF THE VIET CONG
OFFENSIVE LAST MARCH ARE ALIVE AND WELL UNDER DETENTION
IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS, REPORTS REACHING SAIGON SAID.

THE EIGHT DO NOT KNOW WHEN THEY WILL BE ALLOWED
TO LEAVE THEIR DETENTION CAMPS BUT THAT ALL WERE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 130969

HEALTHY AND WELL, THE REPORTS SAID.

THEY INCLUDE FIVE AMERICAN MISSIONARIES AND THE 6-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER OF A MISSIONARY COUPLE, AN AMERICAN STUDENT AND AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, A CANADIAN MISSIONARY COUPLE, AN AUSTRALIAN AND A FILIPINO CONTRACTOR FOR THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE REPORTS REACHING SAIGON TUESDAY SAID THAT THEY ARE WELL FED AND HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO WRITE LETTERS FROM THEIR CAMP AT THANH AN DISTRICT CAPITAL IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, 230 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON.

ALL WERE CAPTURED AFTER COMMUNIST FORCES OVER-RAN BAN ME THUOT DISTRICT CAPITAL IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS TO START THEIR SUCCESSFUL OFFENSIVE MARCH 9.

THE REPORTS IDENTIFIED THE AMERICANS AS JAY SCARBOROUGH, A STUDENT; U.S. PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN BAN ME THUOT PAUL STRUHARIK, AND MISSIONARIES RICHARD AND LILLIAN PHILLIPS, BETTY MITCHELL, AND JOHN AND CAROLYN MILLER AND THEIR DAUGHTER, LUANNE.

AMONG THE NON-AMERICANS ARE CANADIAN MISSIONARIES NORMAN AND JOAN JOHNSON, AUSTRALIAN RADIO TECHNICIAN PETER WHITLOCK, AND FILIPINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER ENRIQUE TOLENTINO.

THE REPORTS REACHING SAIGON LEFT ONLY ONE AMERICAN UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTH VIETNAM -- JAMES LEQIS OF THE U.S. NONSULATE IN NHA TRANG, WHO WAS IN PHAN RANG PROVINCE CAPITAL WHEN THE COMMUNISTS OVER-RAN THAT CITY IN LATE APRIL.

THE REPORTS SAID THE FOREIGNERS WERE WORKING DURING THE DAY, FOR EXAMPLE, CARRYING FIREWOOD FOR COOKING BUT THAT THEY WERE BEING FED DECENTLY. NO ONE WAS REPORTED LOSING WEIGHT.

MILK WAS BEING PROVIDED FOR ALL THOSE WHO WISHED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 130969

IT, THE REPORTS SAID, ESPECIALLY TO LUANNE MILLER.

THEY SAID THE 12 PERSONS' ONLY COMPLAINTS WERE BOREDOM AND ANXIETY FOR THEIR FAMILIES. ALL HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO KEEP THE MEAGER POSSESSIONS THEY MANAGED TO CARRY FROM BAN METHUOT INCLUDING SEVERAL COPIES OF THE BIBLE AND A COPY OF THE BOOK "ANTHONY ADVERSE," THEIR ONLY READING MATERIAL.

A DECK OF CARDS PROVIDES GIN RUMMY GAMES, THE REPORTS SAID, WHILE TALK AFTER THE 6:30 SUNSET REVOLVES AROUND THE FOOD THEY INTEND EATING WHEN THEY GET OUT OF VIETNAM.

MOST OF THOSE UNDER DETENTION HAVE BEEN IN VIETNAM FOR LENGTHY STAYS. THE MISSIONARIES WORKED WITH MONTAGNARD TRIBESMEN IN THE BAN ME THUOT AREA AND WERE PREPARING BIBLES IN THE MONTAGNARD DIALECTS.

STRUHARIK, ONE OF AMERICA'S EXPERTS ON THE MOUNTAIN TRIBESMEN, IS MARRIED TO A MONTAGNARD WOMAN NOW LIVING IN BANGKOK.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT BY STATE DEPT. SPOKESMAN FUNSETH MAY 29. BEGIN TEXT:

I WISH TO STATE OUR SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT NINE AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN HELD BY THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES IN SOUTH VIETNAM SINCE BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY.

AMONG THE GROUP ARE SIX MISSIONARIES CAPTURED MARCH 10 AT BAN ME THUOT, SOUTH VIETNAM, WITH A FORD FOUNDATION SCHOLAR, A USAID OFFICIAL, AN AUSTRALIAN TOURIST, AND A CANADIAN MISSIONARY COUPLE.

IN ADDITION, A U.S. NONSULAR OFFICER ASSIGNED TO NHA TRANG WAS CAPTURED WHEN COMMUNIST FORCES OVER-
-
RAN PHAN RANG ON APRIL 16.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 130969

THERE IS WIDE CONCERN ABOUT THESE PERSONS, WHO CONTINUE TO BE HELD LONG AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS FROM VIETNAM. WE CONSIDER THEIR RELEASE AND SAFE RETURN A MATTER OF URGENT PRIORITY AND CONCERN.

MOREOVER, ABOUT 2,300 AMERICANS CONTINUE TO REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA FROM THE PERIOD BEFORE THE 1973 CEASE-FIRE -- 900 OF THEM, INCLUDING 30 CIVILIANS, STILL LISTED US MISSING; THE REST DECLARED DEAD WITH THEIR BODIES NOT RECOVERED.

UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT THE COMMUNIST SIDE UNDERTOOK TO HELP ACCOUNT FOR THE MISSING AND TO RETURN THE REMAINS OF THE DEAD. PROGRESS ON THIS IS

LONG OVERDUE.

WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT THE COMMUNIST SIDE TO
COOPERATE IN RESOLVING THIS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR, VS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE130969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/PW/FASIEVERTS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750635/aaaabgam.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN DPW
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 NOV 2003 by PhilliRO>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIETNAM
TAGS: CASC
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006